(e) the details of the responses received, if any, from the States indicating, *inter alia,* dates of its receipt from the respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Teacher absenteeism and irregular inspectorate system**

1380. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural schools were dogged by problems of teacher absenteeism and non-functioning of the inspectorate system;

(b) if so, the reasons identified by Government therefor;

(c) whether Government had ordered any enquiries or received any report from the States in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of such reports received by Government;

(e) the action taken by Government against such system; and

(f) the steps, taken/to be taken by Government to improve the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (f) Education being a concurrent subject, school education is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. As per a nationwide survey undertaken by the World Bank and Harvard University in 2004 that covered 3700 primary schools spread over 20 States in the country, 25% of teachers in Government primary schools were absent on a typical day. Further, only 45% of teachers were actively engaged in teaching at the time of visit. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, emphasis has been given on the role of Village Education Committees and local bodies in the monitoring and supervision of schools including attendance of teachers.

The Government of India has also initiated a study on teacher absenteeism in 3 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.